

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/WE HARLAN MOEN

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL IT

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

REF: MEMCON WITH SERGIO PRZZATTI DATED JAN. 16, 1976

1. RECENT UNITED STATES TRAVEL SERICE PUBLICATION ON BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS STATES FOLLOWING WILL TAKE PLACE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, PERIOD APRIL 13-25: QUOTE APRIL 13-25. THOMAS JEFFERSON'S BIRTHDAY/DOGWOOD FESTIVAL, CHARLOTTESVILLE. THIRD PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY IS OBSERVED BY REOPENING THE ROTUNDA, LANDMARK OF UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (FOUNDED BY JEFFERSON IN 1819), THE OPENING OF WESTERN VIRGINIA'S BICENTENNIAL CENTER. PARADES, ART SHOWS, CONCERTS, CORONATION AND ENTERTAINMENT FOLLOWED DURING DOGWOOD FESTIVAL (APRIL 15-25). CONTACT: CHARLOTTESVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 804/295-3141 AND UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, 804/924-7116. UNQUOTE.

2. DESPITE RELUCTANCE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE TO ENTER INTO THE TWIN CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH POGGIO A CAIANO (SEE EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GORDON AND CHARLES JOHNSON DATED JULY 16, JULY 31, 1974 RESPECTIVELY), DELEGATION FROM PRATO AND POGGIO A CAINO, PROBABLY INCLUDING MAYOR PEZZATTI, STILL INTERESTED VISITING CHARLOTTESVILLE AND OTHER VIRGINIA CITIES (REF MEMCON). IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT CELEBRATIONS PLANNED
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AS DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 1 MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR

VISIT OF ITALIAN DELEGATION.

3. SINCE IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING PERIOD CHARLOTTESVILLE CELEBRATIONS, THIS SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR VISIT BY ITALIAN DELEGATION. IF THIS VISIT TAKES PLACE, ITALIAN DELEGATION COULD DISCUSS WITH CHARLOTTESVILLE OFFICIALS RETURN VISIT TO ITALY SOME TIME DURING BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

4. IF YOU DEEM IT APPROPRIATE, I SHOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR OFFICE CONTACTING CHARLOTTESVILLE OFFICIALS TO SEE IF VISIT WOULD BE WELCOME AND COULD BE FACILITATED. STILL BELIEVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOMAS JEFFERSON AND FILIPPO MAZZEI BEST FOCUS FOR VISIT. GORDON

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